Readers' Domain

In regard to Frank S. Robinson's article "Small Size Notes, Collecting Challenge" appearing in the March issue, I must offer the following comments.

On page 230 it is stated "The R (serial number) has always been held scarcer than the S, indicating that the special paper did have somewhat better wearing qualities." I have also seen this in print in other sources.

I must take issue with this statement. For example, how could wearing quality of paper affect the scarcity of uncirculated notes of this series? Since the Bureau of Engraving and Printing claims an exact number of R and S notes were printed, uncirculated notes should be of the same scarcity.

True, the wearing quality could indeed affect availability of circulated notes. Persons who would save these R and S notes would undoubtedly save an equal number of both specimens. The availability of crisp, new notes of a given series of any issue is determined by total number issued, locale in which distributed and period in history that note is released. Since all the factors are supposedly the same, it must be accepted by logic that fairly equal numbers of R and S notes survive in uncirculated condition UNLESS . .

The Bureau of Engraving and Printing did not release an equal number of notes as indicated. I contend the R notes were not released as indicated. How many less R notes were released is determined by current availability of R to S notes.

Possibly 20 to 30 per cent of these notes never saw circulation to Federal banks. The reasons could be many — for example, politics have always played a strong part in our national coinage and currency production. Therefore the R notes could have been held back intentionally and when this was discovered, the results which favored the S notes were discounted and the very expensive experiment was for nought.

Of course many other suppositions could be given . . .

Marlin Kravitz
Creve Coeur, Missouri

I received the Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine for January and was very pleased to see so much information that is helpful to me as a beginner. I am not able to attend the many auctions of coins advertised and announced in the magazine as I am in Argentina now and will be for 1½ years longer.

I am interested in gold coins, especially U.S. $2.50 and $20 pieces of the Liberty and Indian types.

Dolores S. Vevle
APO New York

During March I received from the Franklin Mint an official 1973 Presidential Inaugural silver plate.

This is just about as near perfect as any medal I have ever seen — the figures are nicely frosted. Serial number on the plate is 08225.

It was a birthday present for my wife, her 75th, and she is indeed quite proud of it.

Nelson D. Hunter
Redwood Valley, Calif.

I would very much like to have two additional copies of the April 25 issue of Scrapbook. It has so many interesting articles which I have to file separately in addition to keeping my regular copy.

Eric P. Newman
St. Louis, Missouri

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